(c) and (d) Government is aware of the merits and demerits of packing urea in HDPE woven sacks.

Subsidy on jute bag packaging of Urea

434. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that urea, if packed in jute bags entitles the manufacturers to have subsidy from Government, consequent upon loss incurred in such packing;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of such subsidy; and

(c) whether the payment of this subsidy be averted, if the urea is packed in HDPE woven bags instead?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) As per the orders issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, urea is to be packed in jute packaging material. The indigenously produced urea is covered under the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme, under which unit-wise cost of production based on a combination of norms and actuals in respect of various elements of cost, including packaging, is assessed by the Government.

The comparative subsidy outgo in the case of jute and HDPE bags would depend on the prices of these bags prevailing at a particular point of time. During July—September, 1993 quarter, the cost of packing per tonne of urea in jute bags was higher by about Rs. 17.0 as compared to that of HDPE bags. Therefore, in the event of exclusive use of HDPE bags for packing of urea, as per July—September, 1993 rates, there would be an estimated saving of Rs. 13.5 crores per annum.

Public Issues of IPCL

435. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, (IPCL) had collected money from the public through their Public Issue in the month of November, 1992;

(b) whether it is also a fact that till date neither the Share Certificates have been issued nor the Public money refunded;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Public money has been misused; and

(d) what is the latest Government policy in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to IPCL, the Share Certificates were despatched by registered post by the Registrars to the Public Issue, to the applicants who were allotted shares. In respect of those investors who were not allotted shares refund orders were despatched by registered post by the Registrars—M/s. Datamatics Financial Services Limited, Bombay.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government's policy for such cases is laid down in the Companies Act, 1950 and the guidelines issued by SEBI from time to time.

Letters from MPs

436. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers during the period from 1st April, 1990 to 31st March, 1993 alongwith the year-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of letters out of them which were acknowledged;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The desired information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sick Fertilizer units

437. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of sick fertilizer units in the country;

(b) whether these sick units have approached Government for assistance;

(c) what measures Government propose to take to remedy their sickness; and

(d) what is Government's policy regarding sickness in the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Two fertilizer producing public sector companies, namely Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) have been declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(b) to (d) The BIFR has directed the Government and the management of the above two companies to submit an agreed viable revival package for each of the said companies. Any action with regard to the revival of these companies would depend on the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Company Limited

438. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Company Limited currently under closure;

(b) the reasons therefor and the total loss of output on account of such closure;

(c) the total outlay, in foreign exchange, on account of additional import of fertilizers consequent to the cutback in domestic fertilizer output; and

(d) the principles underlying the policy which encourages fertilizer imports at the cost of non-utilisation of domestic capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Except the Haldia Project, which could not be commissioned due to repeated equipment breakdowns during commissioning, no unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) is lying closed at present. However, Namrup-II plant is presently under shutdown for repair/ maintenance work and is expected to resume production in April, 1994.

Namrup-II plant had produced 1500 tonnes of urea during the month before the shut-down.